THE CLAIMS:

1. A cyclised conotoxin peptide.

2. A cyclised conotoxin peptide having an activity associated with the therapeutic treatment of mammals.

3. A cyclic conotoxin peptide which contains or consists of the sequence of amino acids present in a naturally occurring conotoxin peptide or derivative thereof.

4. A cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 3 wherein the naturally occurring conotoxin peptide is selected from MVIA, GVIA, SVIB, SVIA, TVIA, MVIIC, GVIIA, GVIIB, PVIIA, GS, GI, IMI, PNIA, PNIB, SII, MII, GIIIA, GIIIB, GIIIC and PIIIA.

5. A cyclic conotoxin peptide having three disulphide bonds in the form of a cysteine knot.

6. A cyclic conotoxin peptide comprising a linear conotoxin peptide and a peptide linker, wherein the N- and C- termini of the linear peptide are linked via the peptide linker to form an amide cyclised peptide backbone.

7. A cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 6 wherein the linear conotoxin peptide moiety is derived from a naturally occurring conotoxin peptide and retains the disulphide bond connectivity of the naturally occurring conotoxin peptide.

8. A cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 6 wherein the peptide linker is from 2 to 15 amino acids in length.

9. A cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 6 wherein the peptide linker is selected from the group consisting of:

TRNGLPG	SEQ ID NO. 1
TRNG	SEQ ID NO. 2
TRGGLPV	SEQ ID NO. 3
TNG	SEQ ID NO. 4

10. A cyclic conotoxin peptide selected from the group consisting of:

CKGKGAKCSRLMYDCCTGSCRSGKCTRNGLPG SEQ ID NO. 5

CKGKGAKCSRLMYDCCTGSCRSGKCTRNG SEQ ID NO. 6

GLPV**CKGKGAKCSRLMYDCCTGSCRSGKC**TRG SEQ ID NO. 7

GCCSNPVCHLEHSNLCTNG SEQ ID NO. 8

CCSNPVCHLEHSNLCTNGG SEQ ID NO. 9

11. A process for preparing a cyclic conotoxin comprising:
(i) synthesising an extended linear conotoxin peptide on a solid phase support, said extended linear conotoxin peptide comprising a linear conotoxin peptide having a linker moiety attached to at least one end thereof,
(ii) cleaving said extended linear peptide from the support
(iii) cyclising said extended linear conotoxin peptide, and
(iv) oxidising said cyclised peptide to form disulphide bonds.

12. A process for preparing a cyclic conotoxin comprising:
(i) synthesising an extended linear conotoxin peptide on a solid phase support, said

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extended linear conotoxin peptide comprising a linear conotoxin peptide having a linker moiety attached to at least one end thereof,

(ii) cleaving said linear peptide from the solid support,

(iii) subjecting said extended peptide to conditions such that the peptide folds and forms the required disulphide bonds, and

(iv) cyclising the folded peptide.

13. A process for preparing a cyclic conotoxin comprising:

(i) reacting a conotoxin peptide with a linker moiety to form an extended linear conotoxin peptide having said linker moiety attached to one end thereof, and

(ii) cyclising said extended peptide and oxidising to form disulphide bonds, if required.

14. Use of a cyclic conotoxin peptide having activity at ion channel receptors as a neuropharmacological probe.

15. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of conditions or diseases in mammals including the step of administering a cyclic conotoxin peptide.

16. Use of a cyclic conotoxin peptide in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of diseases or conditions of mammals.

17. A composition comprising a cyclic conotoxin peptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

18. A composition according to claim 17 which is a pharmaceutical composition.

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